

October 15, 2015

Dear Majority Leader Meekhof and Speaker Cotter:

As employers and major electricity customers in Michigan, the undersigned companies write today to raise concerns over the energy policy language of SB 437 and 438, which we believe would have a significant negative impact on the availability of a clean and diversified energy supply in the state.

As global companies providing goods and services to consumers in Michigan and around the world from our operations in the state, a reliable, sustainable electricity supply is critical, and requires reducing energy waste and sourcing power from renewable energy. In fact, the right and ability to access power from renewable resources is not merely a goal, but an expectation.

The current policies were put in place after careful consideration and produce significant benefits – something we have seen consistently in states with strong commitments to energy efficiency and renewable energy – which include providing sustainable sources of power, diversifying the energy supply, supporting innovation, and providing billions of dollars of in-state economic growth and thousands of jobs throughout the state.

We are concerned the legislation would freeze the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Energy Optimization (EO) Standard, which provide a steadily increasing baseline of clean energy for the Michigan grid over time. We believe the RPS and EO Standard should be maintained because our collective experience shows that programs like the RPS and EO Standard can actually reduce the overall cost of energy to ratepayers.

In addition, this legislation would eliminate both Net Energy Metering and the ability for private energy developers to access the Michigan market – two features of current law that provide more options to customers and have helped drive down costs for ratepayers. These changes would effectively create a barrier to the development of many new projects, and put a chill on investment.

The undersigned companies have chosen to locate and do business in Michigan in part because the state's existing energy policies enable us to operate and grow our businesses in furtherance of the goals mentioned above. Any change should therefore consider not just protecting, but expanding these benefits.

We respectfully request that the Legislature maintain the current carefully developed law and policy structure upon which industry has relied for purposes of investment decisions and which has made Michigan particularly attractive to our businesses. Alterations risk undermining the state's almost decade-long commitment to renewable power and energy efficiency. We therefore urge you to keep in place the existing, well balanced and meticulously examined energy policy.

Thank you for taking our views into account; we look forward to working with you on these critical issues.



catalystpartners

Country Air & Solar Energy



Steve Potter





